



Administrator Days

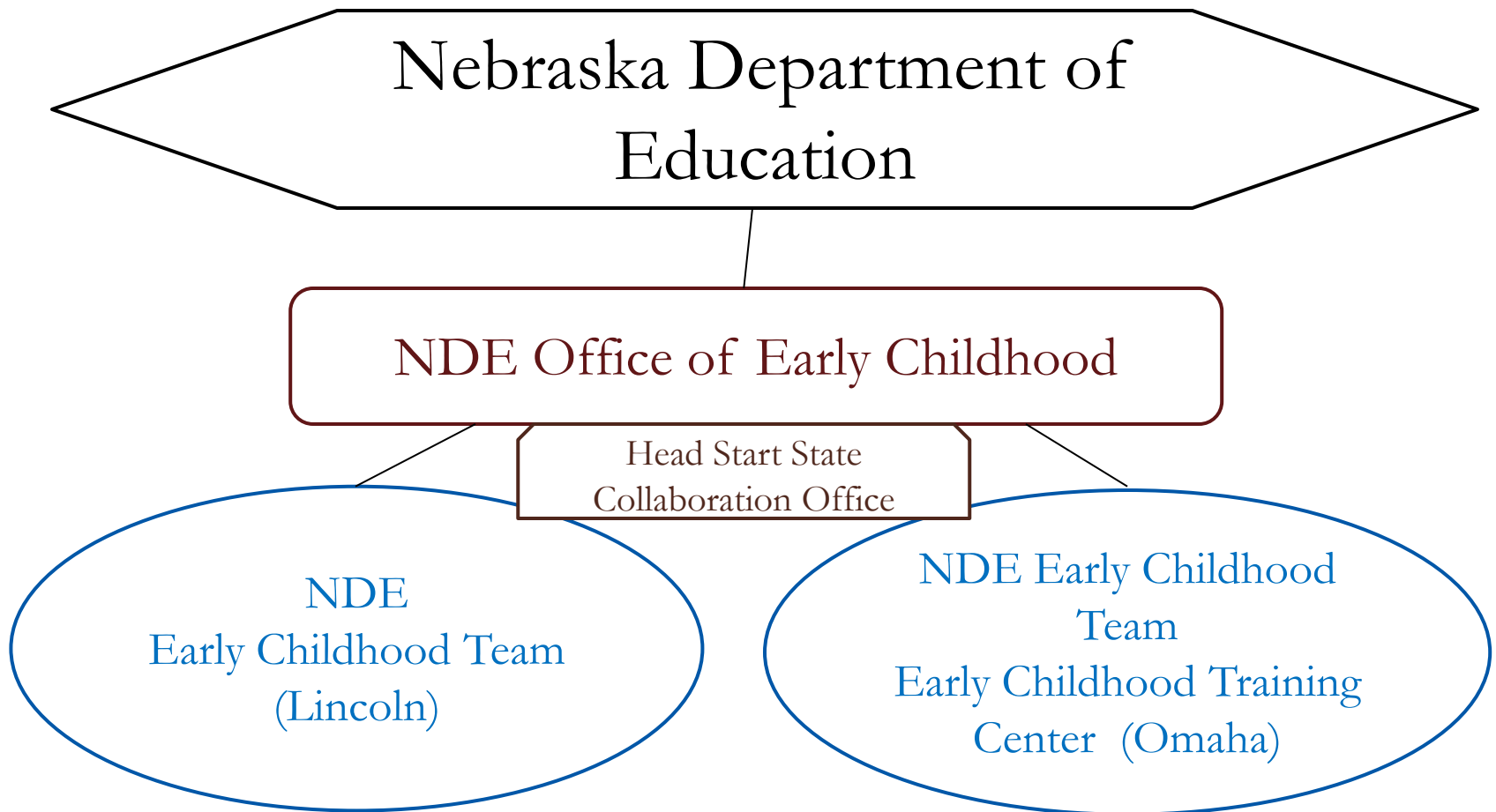
*Putting the Pieces Together for an Effective
Early Childhood Program*

Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Early Childhood
July 31, 2013





NDE Office of Early Childhood Organizational Structure





Early Childhood Program

- District or ESU operated classrooms for children below kindergarten eligibility age
- May be infants, toddlers, twos, threes, fours, or any combination of ages
- May be called preschool, child care (day care), pre-K, “wrap-around”
- Center-based or home visiting
- **All** must meet requirements of *Rule 11*





Early Childhood Programs

- In 2012-2013, 168 districts reported an early childhood center-based program
- 5 ESUs provided a center-based program for an additional 19 districts
- Approximately 12,000 children served in 2012-2013
- In 2013-14, 70 districts have a grant—12 districts recently awarded (7 new, 5 expansion)



Sixpence Programs

- Children ages birth to 3
- In 2013-2014, 18 districts have a grant—12 districts recently awarded (7 new, 5 expansion)
- Center-based and home visitation
- Approximately 330 children were served in 2012-13
- Contact: Nebraska Children & Family Foundation





Enrolling Children in Early Childhood Programs

- No NDE eligibility date for early childhood program entrance
- Classrooms may serve children of different ages together
- No more than 50% of children in a classroom should have an IEP or IFSP (fully inclusive classroom)
- All children are included, no such thing as “peers”
- Children may attend an early childhood program until age eligible for kindergarten
- Districts should develop policies that address enrollment priorities



Program Approval

- Early Childhood Program Report
 - Used to measure compliance with Rule 11
 - Due by October 15
 - Ensure information is correct



Rule 11

- Website

www.education.ne.gov/LEGAL/webrulespdf/cleanrule112007.pdf

- Advisory Committee

- Open Meetings Act

- Facility/Playground

- Inside = 35 square feet per child

- Outside = 75 square feet per child

- Fenced area

- Hours

- Minimum 12 hours per week

- Minimum 450 hours per year (if receiving any state funds)

- Meals/Snacks



Rule 11: Staff

- Teachers
 - Current Nebraska teaching certificate
 - Early childhood endorsement (4)
- Paras
 - 12 college credit hours in child development/early childhood or the equivalent
 - Checked against NE Central Registry of Child Abuse & Neglect and NE Adult Protective Services Registry **prior to hire**
- Coordinator
 - Current NE teaching certificate with at least 9 college credits in early childhood education (*Rule 10*)





Rule 11: Family Involvement/Home Visits

- Purpose
 - Promote home-school relationship
 - Engage families in the child's learning & development
 - Home of the family must always be the 1st option
- Required 2 times per year



Family Involvement: Additional Opportunities

- Parent Conferences
- Newsletters
- Family “Fun Nights”
- Classroom visits/volunteers



An Overview of Early Childhood Data

- Teacher Data
- Student Data
- Program Hours
- Results Matter Information (Program Quality and Child Assessment)
- Kindergarten



How the Data is Used: State Aid

- Student data used to determine age
 - 4 years old as of 7/31
- Participation Codes of EC0002 or EC0004
 - Important to code properly!!
- Grade level
 - HP or PK
- Program hours
 - Planned and Actual



How the Data is Used: Program Approval

- Teacher Data
 - Endorsement
 - Teachers Reported
 - Head Start and Educare Programs
 - Position Assignment Code: 1160
 - Teacher Codes: P, 7, T, and M (new)



How the Data is Used: Program Approval

- Student Data
 - Kindergarten eligible children
 - Participation Info Codes on the Programs Fact Template
 - New Head Start flag (ECHEADST)
 - Classroom codes and student “grade” for Pre-K
 - Head Start & Educare



How the Data is Used: Program Approval

- Program Hours
 - Planned Hours vs. Actual Hours
 - Hours are per week and per year
 - Required number of hours of operation
 - Snow Days or other “Make Up” Days



How the Data is Used: Program Approval

- Results Matter
 - ECERS-R/ITERS-R Self-Assessment
 - Teaching Strategies GOLD



Results Matter

- Child Outcomes
 - Teaching Strategies GOLD™
 - Checkpoint dates
 - Archiving
 - Deleting
 - Transferring
- Program Outcomes
 - ECERS-R
 - ITERS-R
 - Self-Assessments



Funding

- Funding Sources
 - Local district resources, including TEEOSA
 - ECE Grant Program – Ages 3 to 5
 - [Announcement of availability mid-November](#)
 - ECE Grant Program – Ages Birth to 3 (Sixpence)
 - Title 1
 - IDEA base and enrollment/poverty
 - Partner agencies (Head Start, community programs, other districts/ESUs)
 - Parent fees (sliding fee scale)
 - Private funders



Partnerships

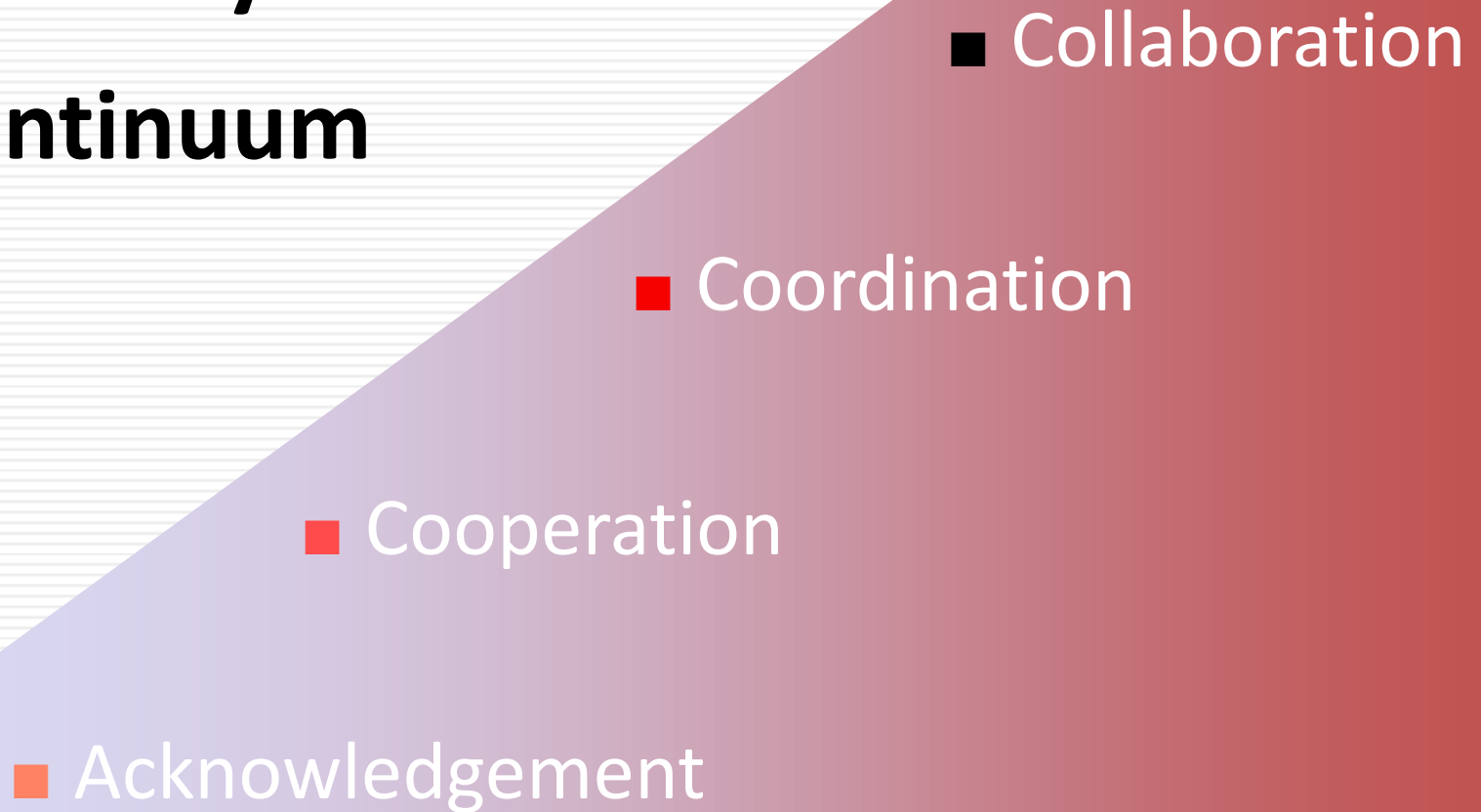
- Intra-agency
 - EC Special Education (ages B to 5)
 - Early Intervention (ages B to 3)
 - Title 1, Part A
 - Title 1, Part C (Migrant)
 - Head Start (if district is the grantee)



Partnerships

- Inter-agency
 - Head Start
 - Community child care center
 - Community preschool
 - Family child care home
 - Family Resource Center
 - Early Learning Connection (ELC) Regional Partnership
 - College or university
 - ESU
 - Other public and/or private districts

Partnership Intensity Continuum





Curriculum

- Provides goals for the knowledge and skills to be acquired by children
- Plan for provision of learning experiences through which the knowledge and skills will be achieved
- Ensures the teacher is intentional in planning a daily schedule that provides
 - Effective use of time & materials
 - Opportunities for children to learn through play and through planned activities, individually & in groups, according to their developmental needs and interests



Curriculum Selection

- How does the curriculum define the roles of the teacher & the child in the learning process?
- What domains of learning are addressed? Are they integrated?
- Does the curriculum provide guidance for differentiating instruction to accommodate children's abilities and learning styles?
- Is there research evidence to support the effectiveness of the curriculum?



Curriculum Selection

- What kind of professional development is available for teachers to learn about the curriculum?
- Are specific materials required to implement the curriculum?
- Does the curriculum provide guidance for parent involvement and transition to kindergarten?



Curriculum Support

- Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines

- Early Childhood Training Center

- Brokered training
 - Scheduled training

www.education.ne.gov/oec/ectc.html

- Early Learning Connections Partnerships



Sing
a song of
Sixpence

A
pocket full
for life





Overview of Sixpence

- LB1256 passed in 2006 Legislative Session
- Establishes a Dedicated Birth-to-Three Funding Source
- 2013 Legislative Session \$5 million was committed for the next 2 years, \$4 million from appropriations and \$1 million from lottery dollars
- Creates local partnerships between schools and early childhood providers to serve children birth to age 3 who are at risk of failing in school
- Establishes a Sixpence Board of Trustees that administers the grants
- Creates a Public–Private Partnership & Funding



Who is eligible to apply?

- School districts with at least one community partner
- Cooperative of school districts with at least one community partner



Access Expansion-Center Based

- Programs Serving Groups of Children
 - Early Head Start, Center or family child care provider
- New program or expand an existing program
 - start a new program
 - increase number of children served
 - expand part day to full day
 - expand part year to full year
 - add a new service component
- **Must meet Rule 11 and Quality Indicators**



Access Expansion-Home-Based

- Family Engagement Programs
- New program or expand an existing program
 - start a new program
 - increase number of children served
- **Must meet Rule 11 and Quality Indicators**



Important Dates:

- Bidder's Conference (Mandatory) August 15, 2013
- Letters of Intent Due August 30, 2013
- **Applications Due** **October 9, 2013**
- Notification of award December 1, 2013
- Grant term begins January 1, 2014
- Grant activities begin September 1, 2013



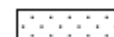
Questions, answers, and support documents can be found on the Sixpence website:

www.singasongofsixpence.org



A map of Nebraska showing its 93 counties, color-coded into four regions: Green (West), Red (Northeast), Yellow (Southeast), and Blue (South). The map includes the following counties and their regional assignments:

- Green (West):** Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Morrill, Garden, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Fumas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster.
- Red (Northeast):** Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, Holt, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Boone, Platte, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Nance, Sherman, Howard, Douglas, Merrick, Polk, Butler, Saunders, Sarpy, Cass, Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson.
- Yellow (Southeast):** Hamilton, York, Seward, Lancaster, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Gage.
- Blue (South):** Scottsbluff, Box Butte, Scottsbluff, Box Butte, Scottsbluff, Box Butte.



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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Questions [& Answers...hopefully!]

